

COUNTY NEWS



PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

February 2004

New County Program Has Merchants Seeing Green Goal is to Help Small Business Owners Protect the Environment

A program being launched this month by the Department of Environmental Health aims to make both consumers and small business owners more aware of what they can do to protect the environment.

The "Green Business Program" focuses on restaurants and auto repair shops, teaching the owners steps they can take to make their operation friendlier to the environment, while also decreasing costs and improving worker safety.

The program seeks to "educate the businesses that there are so many little things they can do," said KariLyn Merlos, one of two pollution prevention specialists assigned to the project. The other specialist is Ellen Schulte.

Participation in the program is voluntary and free for businesses. Those that complete a checklist of environment-friendly measures will receive a sticker to place on their window, and be listed on a special Web site. That way, the public will know of their achievement, which could bring more business in the door.

Although the County's program is just starting up, some local business owners

have already moved toward greater environmental awareness.

Steve Van Landingham, owner of Van's Automotive in El Cajon, said he began looking for ways to run his business in a more environmentally friendly way several years ago.

Among the innovations in his shop are machines that wash parts with hot water and soap instead of harsh chemical solvents, and special mops and buckets to pick up spills of water, coolant and motor oil.

Van Landingham said his primary motivation was the health of himself and his employees, after friends in the automotive business suffered from such ailments as skin cancer after years of working with chemical solvents.

"I think most of it is for health reasons," he said.

The changes can also save money, he said,



Steve VanLandingham, owner of Van's Automotive in El Cajon, scrubs an auto part with a mixture of warm water and an environmentally friendly cleaning solution.

by reducing labor costs and saving energy. He installed additional roll-up doors along the front of his shop to let in more light and save on his electric bill. He said the new methods of cleaning parts are just as effective, without the nasty odors and skin irritation.

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An emergency worker checks a "body part" for radiological contamination during an exercise held Jan. 28 in Kearny Mesa. The exercise was part of a weeklong course for emergency responders on how to deal with a disaster with mass fatalities. During the exercise, workers practiced the proper procedures, using mannequins for victims. See "Walt's Words" on Page 2 for more about the training course and other measures the County is taking to prepare for potential disasters.

Identity Theft and the Repeat Offender

It appears that many criminals who steal other people's identity don't stop committing the crime, even after they've been caught and punished. That's the latest information from the regional Computer and Technology Crimes High Tech Response Team CATCH. Project Director Deputy District Attorney Lisa Weinreb said, "We have found that those who commit identity theft are more likely to commit the very same crime after they are released from prison." Stealing someone's identity, unfortunately, is relatively easy.

During the past year, the CATCH team visited the homes of 130 people currently on probation for identity theft. Officers

found that 64 of these people were not in compliance with the terms of their probation. Incredibly, the team found that nearly 50 percent of these probationers had gone right back to stealing identities. More than 500 pieces of identification were removed during these unannounced visits. The items included driver's licenses, credit cards and other personal forms of identification not belonging to the probationer. These visits alone generated 30 new ID theft cases this past year.

The CATCH team is comprised of 39 law enforcement officers from San Diego County's federal, state and local agencies.

(continued on page 4)

NewsBriefs

Smart Money

Learn basic and intermediate skills of investing, understand your retirement plan options, pick up tips on managing your own funds for retirement and find out how to protect yourself from fraud and identity theft. These are among the topics to be covered at a Financial and Retirement Educational Symposium sponsored by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association on Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Holiday Inn on the Bay, 1355 N. Harbor Drive. The event runs from 8 a.m. to 3:30 and the \$15 registration fee includes lunch. Registration is required, and the form can be found on the last page of County News Online. For more information, contact Kay Ryan at (858) 560-0151, ext. 236.

CECO Campaign Starts Soon

This year's giving campaign by the County Employees Charitable Association, or CECO, will kick off Feb. 10 with a proclamation by the Board of Supervisors. Jean Shepard, acting director of the Health and Human Services Agency, will serve as campaign chairwoman. Each department has a CECO representative to coordinate a campaign for their co-workers. Last year, County employees raised more than \$251,000 for local nonprofits, with \$16,000 of that amount earmarked by employees for specific charities. Donations have helped provide medication to children and low-income families, dental services for the homeless, emergency food for the needy and much more. CECO also puts money toward an emergency fund to help County employees in crisis. Because CECO is run by volunteers, 100 percent of donations go to worthwhile community programs. For more information about CECO, or to learn more about nonprofits receiving funding, e-mail Jennifer Uebbing at jennifer.uebbing@sdcounty.ca.gov.

San Pasqual Holiday Drive

Thanks to the generosity of employees in the Finance and General Government Group, students at San Pasqual Academy had a brighter holiday. The group raised \$5,400, over the holidays, which was used to provide gift certificates for the teens at the North County Fair shopping center. The teens were able to purchase Christmas gifts for friends, family and themselves.

More Newsbriefs on Page 6 of the online edition of County News



In Walt's Words

Preparing for the Unthinkable

A lot of what we do as County employees leads to immediate benefits for the people we serve. When we vaccinate a child, fix a pothole or patrol a neighborhood, the results can be instantaneous and dramatic.

There are times, though, when our work involves preparing for something we hope will never happen. We feel a sense of accomplishment from our preparation, but the best thing would be if we never had to utilize our new skills.

That is definitely the case with a very important training session coordinated last month by the Public Safety Group, and hosted by the Office of Emergency Services. For a full week, emergency responders from San Diego County, and other agencies in California, Arizona and Nevada, learned how to handle an emergency with mass fatalities.

It could be a man-made disaster such as a terrorist attack or airplane crash, or a fire, earthquake or flood. Participants learned how to create mass fatality response plans for their own communities. The students attended lectures and took part in exercises focusing on how to process a disaster scene, and how to work with bereaved families.

The class was conducted by staff from the National Mass Fatalities Institute in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, which received a federal grant after the 9-11 terrorist attacks. More than 60 professionals attended the class.

The mass fatalities class is one of several initiatives to prepare for a disaster. Another is a study of a "reverse 911" system that would alert residents of targeted areas of an evacuation order. Supervisor Greg Cox and Sheriff Bill Kolender brought the proposal forward in the wake of October's devastating wildfires, and I will be reporting back to the board soon on the feasibility of a reverse 911 system.

In addition, the Office of Emergency Services is gathering public suggestions on a countywide disaster response plan. This plan looks at risks posed by a wide range of disasters and recommends how to minimize potential damage before the disasters occur. This plan is required by the federal government, and future funding will be tied to it. I am proud to say we are one of the first counties in the state to tackle this planning effort on a regional basis, and I salute the OES staff who are working hard to make it happen. We expect this plan will provide a model for others to follow.

As I said, we hope we won't need to implement any of these plans, and with luck, we'll simply carry them in our "hip pockets," just in case. But we must be prepared for the worst, and these efforts bring us closer to our goal.

Here's hoping all of you have a safe and productive month.

Walt Ekard
Chief Administrative Officer

The Supervisor's View



By Chairwoman Dianne Jacob

Part of an ongoing series by the Board of Supervisors.

It's hard to believe that a little more than three months have gone by since the chaotic days of the October wildfires. San Diego County's response to the fires did not end when the last of the flames were extinguished. In fact, the County's hard work has not let up in the least!

Whether its sandbags for flood control, the processing of building permits, emotional health counseling or writing workshops at libraries, our County continues to provide a whole range of rebuilding services for victims, day in and day out.

I want take this opportunity to thank County employees for the responsive and compassionate way our County continues to help victims. I've received a great deal of positive feedback from people in communities that were hardest hit by the fires and I am proud of the hard work of our County team!

Here is a small sampling of the way our flexible County has rolled-up its collective sleeves to respond to the emerging needs of fire victims.

- Employees with the Departments of Public Works and Planning and Land Use are taking part in a tremendous effort to remove debris from burned out areas and control erosion in places at risk of mudslides and flooding. Hundreds of burned out property owners are accessing the services. County employees are working diligently to fill requests for disposal bins, remove burned out cars and install erosion control devices like fiber rolls and sand bags.
- Employees working on County Mental Health's Wildfire Recovery Project are providing crisis counseling and outreach to fire victims. Many victims are just starting to come to grips with their losses. This important effort will help them cope in the months ahead.
- Employees with the Department of Parks and Recreation are working to get public parks back to the way they were before the fires. Employees are removing dangerous trees, replacing destroyed signs and repairing trails.
- Employees in the Department of Environmental Health and the Air Pollution Control District are keeping a close watch on the quality of the water and air in and around burn areas. Employees continuously monitor the region to stay alert for the first sign of a problem.
- Even employees in the Library Department have a role in the recovery effort. The Lakeside branch recently held a writing workshop designed to help fire victims express themselves.

There are many other County employees attentively helping our region recover. If the October fires were a test of what this County is made of, then - so far - we have shown that we are strong, hardworking and helpful to our friends and neighbors in need.

Thank you for all you do for others!

Dianne Jacob

[Ver•ba•tim]

Letters from satisfied customers served by County employees.

Sara Burt and Gloria Hinkley (Clerk of the Board) were praised for their assistance to a customer.

"You are raising the bar in customer service and it is appreciated."

Ted Olsen (Agriculture, Weights & Measures) was thanked for helping a grower with a report on pesticide usage.

"I respect his dedicated attitude and preparation for what he has been assigned to do."

Yolanda Uriarte (HHSA) received a letter of thanks from an appreciative client.

"She's very warm, accommodating and we felt that she made us welcome and at home in this office. She was very professional - really knows what she's doing and explains the step/process clearly - and she's doing this for everyone."

John Reider, Ken Martin and Ed Russo (General Services) were thanked by a senior probation officer for their excellent service.

"It is a pleasure to deal with these individuals and they are an asset to the County. More County departments should model their customer service procedures after these individuals."

Darryl Fowler, Jon Senaha and Kevin Heaton (Environmental Health) were thanked by an employee of another County department for their assistance in processing a donation of property to the County. The donor wanted to complete the transaction in 2003, so the three employees stayed late on New Year's Eve to finish the work.

"Your efforts are most appreciated and have enabled the County to gain ownership of a property that is conservatively estimated to be worth \$1 million."

Vanessa Gonzalez (HHSA) was thanked by a client for assistance in obtaining financial aid.

"I thank you and your supervisor! The next day after your advice I had the cash in hand and put it in the bank."

Todd Burton (Environmental Health) was thanked by a restaurant manager for responding on a weekend to inspect the facility following a small fire.

"Because the call was handled so quickly and efficiently, I was able to get on with my day and the restaurant was able to reopen without any unnecessary delay."

More Verbatim on Page 6 of the online version of County News.

NEWSMakers NEWSMakers

The Public Defender's Homeless Court Program has been selected as one of the Top 50 programs in the 2004 Innovations in American Government Awards Competition. The honored programs represent the top 7 percent of the programs that applied for the award. The competition is run by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation of the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

The next step of the competition involves a visit to San Diego by one

of the institute's evaluators, to assess the Homeless Court program's effectiveness. Once the field is narrowed further, the top winners will receive grants of \$100,000 apiece.

The Homeless Court program began in 1989 and is intended to help homeless people resolve legal issues, such as citations or warrants, which could be an impediment to them achieving self-sufficiency. Judges give sentences for program/shelter activities in which participants are already involved.

County Employees Pound Pavement for March of Dimes

Team County is once again gearing up to be at the forefront as one of the leading fundraising teams for March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2004. Last year, the County raised more than \$46,000 to rank second among the local organizations participating in the San Diego Walk.

This year, WalkAmerica, the oldest fundraising walk in the nation, will take place on Saturday, April 24 in Balboa Park and Sunday, April 25 at Legoland. Those wanting to participate in the Walk may sign up online at www.walkamerica.com. Simply indicate that you are walking as part of a group or organization and enter "County of San Diego" in the search box. You can then register as a part of Team County. If you do not wish to register online but want to participate, see your department March of Dimes contact or call 619-578-6641 for more information.

Money raised in WalkAmerica goes to the March of Dimes to deal with the growing issue of premature births, a major source of health problems in newborns.

In addition to the WalkAmerica event, countywide promotions over the next few months will include beanie bear sales, Blue Jeans for Babies days and an online County auction.

Protecting the Environment

(continued from page 1)

"You can take a greasy, grubby part and within an hour or so it's really clean," he said. The high-pressure washing machine is large enough to accommodate an engine block, he said.

The Green Business Program also has many suggestions for restaurants, from reducing the amount of waste they send to landfills, to conserving water and power.

For example, eateries can switch to refillable containers for condiments such as sugar, salt, pepper, and ketchup, and use dispensers for plastic straws instead of the type that are individually wrapped. Restaurants also are encouraged to buy bulk products and use cloth napkins and tablecloths instead of those made of paper. The use of a low-flow, high-pressure nozzle for pre-rinsing dishes can save both water and energy.

San Diego County's program is modeled after a successful program in Northern California's Bay Area. DEH is working with a number of local, state and federal agencies that are involved in various aspects of environmental protection and conservation.

"These are things that have worked in other areas and we know they will be effective here," said Schulte.

Identity Theft

(continued from page 1)

The District Attorney's Office is the lead agency. There are three deputy district attorneys and one state deputy attorney general assigned full time to this unit. Prosecutors are involved at every level. They help with the search warrants, prepare the cases for trial, prosecute them and then seek restitution for the victims.

At the county level, Supervisor Greg Cox's Conference on Identity Theft has helped raise awareness about this growing crime. It also provided key information on how people can keep from being victimized by this crime.

Unfortunately, more and more criminals are becoming aware too. "Some suspects who used to commit violent crimes are turning to identity theft because it's easier, the gains are greater and the prison terms are lower," said Weinreb. Sentencing guidelines for the crime of ID theft range from 16 months to two or three years in prison. It's estimated that more than 500,000 people will become victims of ID theft this year. Don't be the next victim.

For more information about how to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft, log onto the District Attorney's Web site at www.sdcca.org, then click on "Protecting the Community," and "ID Theft."

County News is published for the 17,000 employees of the County of San Diego.

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This information is available upon request in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.



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Volume 26, No. 2 February 2004

COUNTY NEWS *Extra*

Service Awards

Congratulations to County employees reaching the following milestones in February:

30 Years

Anne Colt (Superior Court)
John E. Dorval (Public Works)
Frank Y. Hinkle, Jr. (Sheriff)
William E. Hogue (Sheriff)
Steven J. Luppens (Library)
Kay Diane Quinn (Library)
Carole A. Sanford (District Attorney)
Anianita A. Villarba (Treasurer-Tax Collector)

25 Years

Rosalinda Arellanes (Probation)
Patty Birkinshaw-Bonner (Probation)
Lucia A. Black (District Attorney)
Neil A. Bleich (Environmental Health)
Sarah J. Brooks (Auditor & Controller)
Margaret A. Burns (HHSA)
Eileen Centola-Pierce (HHSA)
George N. Crawford (Sheriff)
Cary H. Dressler (Sheriff)
Matthew W. Erb (Probation)
David P. Fennell (Environmental Health)
Penny I. Garrett (Sheriff)
Gale E. Hunt (HHSA)

John McLean (Purchasing ISF)
Michael E. Moreno (County Counsel)
Edward V. Murillo (Animal Control)
Norma Nares (Sheriff)
Esther L. Pedraza (County Counsel)
Cynthia Reed (Superior Court)
Benjamin D. Rivera (HHSA)
Benjamin Sanchez, Jr. (Probation)
Carol Schier (HHSA)
Robert B. Spivey (Sheriff)
Billie E. Strange (Sheriff)
Margaret Jean Sullivan (Probation)
Susana F. Torio (Assessor)
Bonnie K. Weedman (HHSA)
Linda M. Wilson (HHSA)

20 Years

James E. Atkins (District Attorney)
Orvil R. Berrios (Sheriff)
Felecia Brown (Probation)
Silvia Casillas-Houseman (Superior Court)
Michael S. Clough (Sheriff)
Janet E. Covell (HHSA)
Carlos Farrias (Sheriff)

Randall B. Fischer (HHSA)
Gary W. Gleason (District Attorney)
Stella D. Gracia (District Attorney)
Junetta K. Graham (Child Support)
David S. Johnson (Assessor)
Robert W. Knox (Sheriff)
Leilani Leasau (Superior Court)
Roberta J. Levin (Housing/Community Development)
Stephen A. Long (Sheriff)
Patricia L. Mallen (District Attorney)
Mildred Masis-Chambers (Sheriff)
Maria C. McCoy (HHSA)
Diana S. Porter (Planning & Land Use)
Nancy C. Smale (Auditor & Controller)
Catherine A. Stephenson (District Attorney)
Vernetta R. Steverson (District Attorney)
Douglas F. Thompson (Assessor)
Randall R. Webb (Sheriff)
Cynthia L. Windsor (District Attorney)

In Memoriam

Jean Boutin (Social Services, 1991)	11/03
John S. Burke (Public Works, 1993)	11/03
Dashwood W. Culver (DMI, 1973)	12/03
Mary S. Gaddie (Library, 1998)	11/03
Darren I. Grant (District Attorney, Deferred)	10/03
Robert W. Hamlin (Probation, 1982)	12/03
Barbara I. Heskett (Social Services, 1991)	8/03
Joseph Hofman (Assessor, 1977)	11/03
Edward B. Keeler (Welfare, 1978)	11/03
Dorithe A. King (Welfare, 1977)	11/03
William J. McCracken (Sheriff, 1987)	12/03

Toni M. Rice (Probation, 1989)	8/03
Russell H. Schmidt (Veterinarian, 1975)	11/03
Betty Ann Watkins (Health Services, 1998)	11/03
Virginia Whelan (Recorder Clerk, 1997)	11/03
Alice V. Wolfe (Welfare, 1975)	11/03

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of active County employees Ralph Commisso of Child Support Services (11/03), and Patricia Leblanc of HHSA (11/03).

County News Extra includes expanded information about and for County employees. If you have something you'd like considered, contact the newsletter editor at (619) 595-4627.

[Ver•ba•tim] *extra*

Emilie Malec and Claudia Ferrer (Probation) were thanked by a fellow San Diegan.

"Thank you for taking the time and effort to return my stolen driver's license and military ID. I really appreciated it. Merry Christmas."

Steve Martinez, Elric Dawson, Eugene Naputi and Tim Jordan (General Services) were thanked by a Probation Department employee for excellent work at Juvenile Hall.

"I just wanted to take a moment to recognize maintenance for several jobs well done."

News Briefs Extra

Discount Tickets for Buick Invitational

The upcoming Buick Invitational Golf Tournament (Feb. 10-15 at Torrey Pines Golf Course) is making discount tickets available to County employees and their friends & families, with the proceeds from discounted tickets going to support two County programs: County Parks and HHSA's Children in Need program. Employees can buy tournament tickets for \$12 instead of between \$13 and \$25. To

purchase tickets from the Parks Society, call (619) 260-6416 or visit the Sherman-Gilbert House in Heritage Park located at 2454 Heritage Park Row in Old Town. To purchase tickets that support Children in Need, call Monica Perez at (760) 754-3470 or Mindy Ripley at (760) 967-4541. Tickets can be used any day of the tournament.

Retirements

The San Diego County Employees Retirement Association reports the following employees recently retired:

Robert Asher (Planning & Land Use)
Charles A. Avery (Probation)
Jonathan Best (Sheriff)
Frankie M. Bibbins (Health & Human Services Agency)
Frances Castro (Superior Court)
Von L. Dishong (Sheriff)
Alice R. Desimas (Superior Court)
Catherine J. Dilts (Health & Human Services Agency)
Jack W. Edington (Health & Human Services Agency)
Forouzan Foroozesh (Health & Human Services Agency)
Sandra A. Gillins (Planning & Land Use)
Jerry D. Goodman (Health & Human Services Agency)
William M. Graham (District Attorney)
Freddie Harrison (Probation)
James R. Hinton (Agriculture, Weights & Measures)
James T. Keenan, III (Sheriff)
Doris A. Kwasny (Environmental Health)
Helen Lim
Richard A. Logan (Sheriff)

Alicia L. Marion (Probation)
Kathleen D. McNees (District Attorney)
Elizabeth A. Mills (County Counsel)
Edmund E. Mozulay (County Counsel)
Walter L. Ogle (Sheriff)
D. D. Peet (Health & Human Services Agency)
Sara F. Renick (Sheriff)
Ana T. Rodriguez (Health & Human Services Agency)
Linda S. Rolan (Superior Court)
Louis C. Russell (Public Works)
Vivian D. Sanderlin (Health & Human Services Agency)
William B. Saunders (Public Defender)
Joanne M. Schimek (Health & Human Services Agency)
Gerard Thomas (Sheriff)
Evangeline Tuazon (Sheriff)
John W. Wagner, Jr. (Probation)
Kathleen L. Wehr (District Attorney)
Sarah G. Young (Health & Human Services Agency)



SDCERA Financial and Investment Educational Symposium

Saturday, February 28, 2004

Holiday Inn on the Bay
1355 North Harbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92101

Learn basic and intermediate skills of investing, understand your retirement plan options, learn how to manage your funds for retirement and protect yourself from identity theft.

Featured speakers:

Ray Lucia, C.F.P., author and radio show host of "The Ray Lucia Show"

**Ann Perry, San Diego Union-Tribune personal financial columnist and author of
*The Wise Inheritor: A Guide to Managing, Investing, and Enjoying Your Inheritance***

Jay Foley, Identity Theft Resource Center

Philip J. Sullivan, Esq., Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps, LLP

Ranessa Ashton, SDCERA

Linda Harder, T. Rowe Price

Registration: 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Program: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00 per person (includes lunch)

Free parking is available in the north lot of the CAC, 1600 Pacific Highway

Parking is also available at the hotel for \$5.00/day

Seating is limited, enrollment is required.

Enrollment Form (Reproduce as necessary)

Member Information (Please print)

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Department Name _____

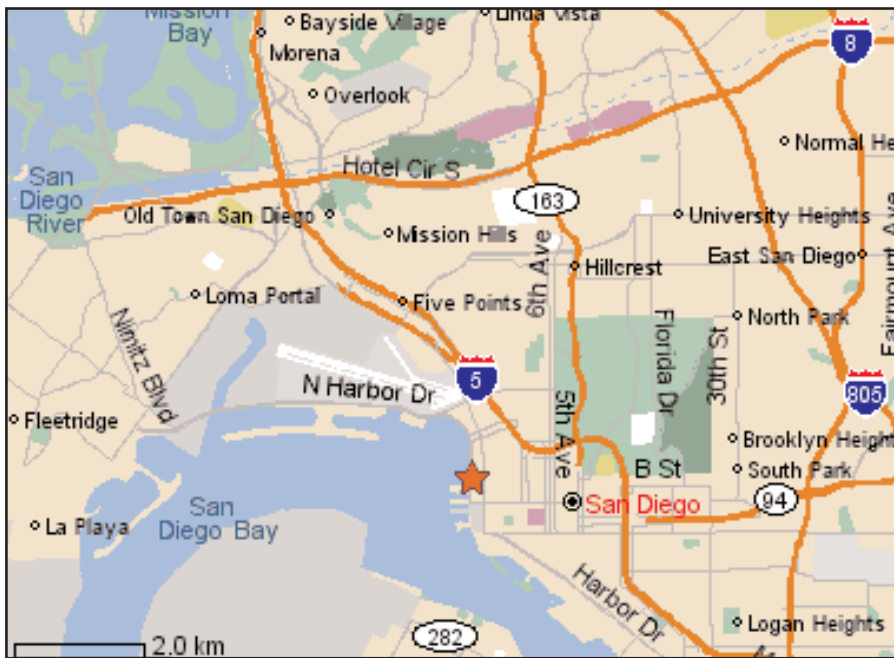
Mail Stop _____ Daytime Phone (____) _____ Home Phone (____) _____

☐ Yes, _____ additional guests will attend with me.

Guest name(s): _____

- ☐ My enrollment fee (checks only) is enclosed with this form (\$15.00 per person). Please make checks payable to the SDCERA Symposium Fund and mail to **the SDCERA Financial and Investment Educational Symposium, Attention: Kay Ryan, 4004 Kearny Mesa Road, San Diego, CA 92111**. Your enrollment form and fee must be received by February 20, 2004. If you have questions, please call Kay Ryan at 858-560-0151 ext. 236.

Upon receipt, a confirmation postcard will be mailed to you.



Parking

Free parking is available in the north lot of the CAC, 1600 Pacific Highway

Parking at the hotel is \$5.00/day

Directions to the Holiday Inn on the Bay

I-5 South: Exit on Front/Civic Center. Turn right on Ash Street. Turn left on Harbor Drive. Hotel is located on the left corner of Harbor Drive and Ash Street.

I-5 North: Exit on Hawthorne/San Diego Airport. Turn left on North Harbor Drive. Hotel is on the left.

I-8 West: I-8 West to 163 South. Exit on Ash Street. Turn left on North Harbor Drive. Hotel is on the left.

I-15 South: I-15 South to 163 South. Exit on Ash Street. Turn left on North Harbor Drive. Hotel is on the left.